slender neck. It was larger than the Sharp-tailed Sandpiper and about the same size as a Wood Sandpiper *(Tringa glareola)*. No eyebrow line nor rufous on the head were evident. When flushed from the ground, it showed more white on the sides of the rump (cf. H. F. Witherby, *et al*, 1947 *Handbook of British Birds*, p. 281) and, significantly, it frequently separated from the other sandpipers when on the wing. The feathers on the back were more sharply marked, being blackish and brown with clear buff edges. The chest appeared to be an even greyish brown with no striations nor flecking. The bird did not call. It fed in shallow water and on mudflats with the sharp-tailed species.

Oriental Pratincole, *Glareola pratincola*

Two birds were seen resting on bare open ground near the lake on November 14 and December 19, 1964. Identification was based on the pure white tail and coverts, the black line across the breast, the deeply forked long tail, and the short legs. A solitary bird (W.A. Museum No. A9560) was collected on December 19, 1965. The previous southern limit of this migrant in Western Australia was Point Cloates (Serventy and Whittell, loc. cit., p. 209) where it was recorded by T. Carter (*The Emu*, 3, 1904: 175).

FIELD AND STUDY

Movements of the White-fronted Honeyeater.—On April 8th, we drove 19 miles south of Zanthus on the Balladonia Road. At a soak here, while we camped to eat, this species flew over, moving from south-west to north-east. For over an hour birds flitted over, flying in short spurts, pausing to perch, then moving on. They did not associate with each other but passed over at about one per second.

The next day, just north of Zanthus, the same species was moving in similar fashion in a corridor about 200 yards wide, from east to west. They were observed at 10 a.m., 11 a.m. and again at 3 p.m., with no lessening of numbers. The next morning the exodus was still in unabated progress.

At Queen Victoria Spring in October of last year, this was the most plentiful bird, but on a visit made on April 11th, 1966, only occasional birds were seen. A few are always to be seen around Zanthus, though numbers swell many times over in the blossoming times.

—ROGER H. SMITH, Zanthus.

Grey Kangaroos near Wiluna.—On the 27th January, 1966, at South Well, Altona Station, 70 miles on a bearing approximately S. by S.S.W. from Wiluna, two grey kangaroos *(Macropus canguru)*, an adult male and an adult female, were fortuitously captured in the course of a study of the red kangaroo *(Megaleia rufa)*. The two specimens were found in a state of light narcosis within a few yards of each other and had apparently been in company prior to succumbing to the narcotic. The narcotic was administered as a solu-

tion in the sheep drinking trough water. Both animals were actually handled and closely examined by three persons, all having had more than adequate experience with the large Macropodidae to enable positive identification. Those concerned were R. Prince, Department of Zoology, University of Western Australia; J. Long, Agriculture Protection Board, and myself. Both animals were released in a nearly recovered state shortly after examination.

It is perhaps relevant to note that exceptionally heavy and well-distributed rain had fallen over the pastoral areas during the preceding winter and summer months.

—A. J. OLIVER, Department of Agriculture, Wiluna.

Leaf Carrying by *Neophema splendida*.—For the past three years my wife and I have observed our female aviary-bred Scarlet-chested Parrots *(Neophema splendida)* biting green leaves off various growing shrubs, i.e., Climbing Honeysuckle, Cotoneaster, Mandarin, Tree Lucerne, Hibiscus, Cumquat and Eucalypts. Small leaves only are chosen. Each leaf is nipped off and twirled around with a circular motion in the bill either to render it pliable or to position it appropriately. The leaf is then tucked under the rump feathers. Many leaves fall to the ground, but when several leaves are aboard the bird flies to the nesting site and deposits its burden therein. This behaviour is only evident when eggs are in the nest. Inspection of nesting logs or boxes reveals only a few leaves, so presumably the green matter is to supply humidity and is not for nest building.

Most aviculturists keep these lovely parrots, incorrectly I think, in aviaries devoid of growing shrubs. Therefore, observation of this behaviour is apparently limited. However, R. Graham of Rivervale informs me he has observed a female in his aviary pick, and carry at the one time in a similar manner, seventeen green Victorian Tea Tree leaves. The behaviour resembles that of the African parrot genus *Agapornis*.

—A. Y. PEPPER, Scarborough.

The Shortbill Spearfish, *Tetrapturus angustirostris*, from Western Australia.—On August 27, 1965, Mr. C. H. Johnston observed a fish in difficulties in shallow water inside the reef at North Cottesloe. He managed to capture the fish by hand, and then notified the press of his find. A photograph was published in *The West Australian* on August 28, 1965. The W.A. Museum was notified of the capture, and the specimen was donated for further study. Unfortunately, the head and first anal fin had been removed, one side skinned, and the fish completely gutted.

The fish was an immature male shortbill spearfish, *Tetrapturus angustirostris* Tanaka, the first record for Australian waters, and second record of the species for the Indian Ocean. To my knowledge this is the first specimen to be taken in shallow coastal waters in any part of the world. Jones and Silas (1962: 73) give the distribution of this species as: Japan south of 35°N. latitude; Formosa;